Amendment t the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the following marked-up replacement Abstract:

-- The present invention provides an array-based extensible document storage format, as well as a method, system, and computer program product for operating upon (e.g. creating, and retrieving information from) the arrays. The arrays may be used for storing Extensible Markup Language (XML) documents, or documents encoded in other notations such as a machine-oriented extensible markup language (mXML) disclosed in U. S. Patent _____ (serial number 09/652,056). The arrays of the present invention enable optimizing the processing speed, parsing overhead, processing overhead, storage requirements, and/or memory operations for operating upon documents represented in extensible notations. --

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